



DATE: October 6, 1987

TO: Land Division File

FROM: Steven C. Townsend and Richard C. Johnson, DLPC/FOS

SUBJECT: LPC #1158040012 - Macon County
Decatur/Barding & Spawr
FOS

On October 6, 1987, the above referenced facility was inspected by Richard C. Johnson and this author - Steven C. Townsend of this Agency. Mr. James Spawr, property owner, accompanied us during most of the inspection. The weather conditions were cloudy with temperatures in the mid 50's (°F). Soil conditions were slightly moist but not muddy. Heavy equipment was being used to mine soil to build a berm off-site in exchange for repairing some leachate seepage. Gale Hutchins was the party removing the soil in exchange for this work.

An inspection of this property on April 24, 1987, by S. Dale Elenberger of this Agency described both cover problems and leachate flows, including leachate flowing off-site. We entered the site via an access road, parked west of Decatur sanitary district property and walked east and south to view some areas of apparent concern noted in the April 24, 1987, inspection. We walked south and west, and then followed the eastern edge north along a leachate flow and beyond to an access road, and then walked back to the car in order to cover the apparently filled areas of the site in our inspection.

While on-site we found leachate flowing along the Decatur sanitary district property. No leachate was flowing off-site. Several areas of inadequate cover were found. Some work correcting leachate flows had been done on-site in exchange for clean dirt available on-site. The dozer operator was asked about the site. He claimed that he remembered Firestone and other Decatur industries having dumped at the landfill. He said his father had operated equipment at the landfill while it was accepting waste.

Site History

The following is some site history for the Barding and Spawr property according to Mr. Spawr. The property was once used as a landfill by Macon County Landfill Inc. which was formed in the 1950's. The site was first used in the 1950's for landfilling. The Barding & Spawr property consists of 66 acres. According to Mr. Spawr about 1/2 the property (33 acres) was used as a landfill. Mr. Spawr was able to draw us the approximate filled areas on a drawing.

Filling began off Wyckles Road and progressed toward a rendering plant (where Highway 412 (Bypass 51) is now located). According to Mr. Spawr, filling stopped well short of where the current highway is located. Mr. Spawr said

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the site accepted mainly general refuse from haulers and did not accept liquids. He said he did not know of any liquid pit on-site. Mr. Spawr said he was only a child at that time and did not remember that much about the landfill operation. Mr. Spawr said that he did not know of wastes accepted from any industries in Decatur.

Some significant discrepancies regarding previously received information and information received during this inspection should be noted. They are as follows:

During a April 24, 1987, inspection by Dale Elenberger of this Agency, Mr. Junior Barding, co-owner of the property and business located on the property, stated that industries including ADM dumped liquids into a pit on-site. He showed Mr. Elenberger the approximate location of the pit. Mr. Spawr said no liquids were received, no pit existed, and as far as he knew industries did not dump there because the site was far from town. The edge of town was much further east at that time. Closer landfills were apparently operating at the time.

There was evidence of refuse poking through the cover almost to the edge of the Barding & Spawr/Oakley property line. Mr. Spawr did not believe the fill went that far and seemed surprised when we found refuse poking through that far west. Mr. Spawr admitted he was unsure about much of the site's history since he was just a child when the site began operating.

Environmental Problems Observed On-site

Two (2) main problems were seen during this inspection apart from and possible hazardous waste concerns. They are as follows:

1. Areas of uncovered refuse were observed. According to Mr. Spawr the areas we photographed had never received adequate cover. He said Macon County Landfill Inc. filled the final portions of the landfill very rapidly in order to stop filling on his property, and begin filling on property owned by Macon County Landfill Inc. to the west. He said this was done because M.C.L.F. Inc. feared a dispute between himself and the company might occur. (See photos 2 and 3).
2. Leachate flows were observed on-site. Two (2) leachate flows which merged into one (1) flow along the Decatur sanitary district property were observed. No leachate was observed flowing off-site. This is a potential pollution threat to the Sangamon River and an apparent violation of Section 12(a) of the Act. (See photos 4-12)

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For the reasons outlined below, this site is recommended to be added to the ERRIS list for the purpose of completing a Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspection:

1. This site was an operating landfill in the 1950's and 1960's close to a heavily industrial area. No RCRA regulations existed to prevent what would now be considered hazardous waste from being deposited on-site.
2. According to Mr. Barding a pit for liquid waste from industries existed on-site (see April 24, 1987, report. Mr. Barding was not present during this most recent inspection).
3. Leachate samples collected during the April 24, 1987, inspection showed significant amounts of hazardous constituents, supporting the theory that hazardous waste was indeed disposed of on-site. Leachate was also observed flowing in this area during an inspection by Dale Elenberger, DLPC/FOS, on April 12, 1984 (see LPC #11500000000 - Decatur/Sanitary District Lagoon Project).
4. Leachate was still flowing from the site on October 6, 1987. Two samples were collected by Richard C. Johnson during this inspection. (See photos 4-12).

Dale Elenberger conducted a well sampling of the adjacent sanitary district property on October 6th and 7th, 1987. These results will be helpful in determining any possible groundwater contamination from the site. Both upgradient wells (between the sanitary district lagoons and the Barding and Spawr property) and downgradient wells were sampled.

SCT/RCJ/jg/0011L

Attachments

cc: DLPC/FOS - Central Region
DLPC/RPMS - Monte Nienkerk

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